

LAU (Lynx Analysis Unit)

An LAU is an area of at least the size used by an individual lynx, from about 25 to 50 square miles (LCAS). An LAU is a unit for which the effects of a project would be analyzed; its boundaries should remain constant.

Lynx Habitat

Lynx habitat occurs in mesic coniferous forest that experience cold, snowy winters and provide a prey base of snowshoe hare. In the northern Rockies, lynx habitat generally occurs between 3,500 and 8,000 feet of elevation, and primarily consists of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. It may consist of cedar-hemlock in extreme northern Idaho, northeastern Washington and northwestern Montana, or of Douglas-fir on moist sites at higher elevations in central Idaho. It may also consist of cool, moist Douglas-fir, grand fir, western larch and aspen when interspersed in subalpine forests. Dry forests do not provide lynx habitat. (LCAS)

Bear Management Unit (BMU)

Areas established for use in grizzly bear analysis. BMUs generally a) approximate female home range size; and b) include representations of all available habitat components.

Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone

The area in each grizzly bear ecosystem within which the population and habitat criteria for achievement of recovery will be measured. Cabinet/Yaak grizzly bear recovery zone: This zone is approximately 2,600 square miles. The recovery zone is located in northwestern Montana and northern Idaho and includes portions of the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Selkirk grizzly bear recovery zone: This zone is approximately 2,200 square-miles and includes portions of the IPNF and Colville National Forests, as well as 1,034 square miles of habitat in British Columbia, Canada.

Bears Outside Recovery Zone (BORZ)

An area where one would reasonably expect to find grizzly bear use occurring during most years.

Caribou Habitat

Generally characterized as mature and older subalpine fir/Engelmann spruce and western red cedar/western hemlock dominated stands above 4,500 feet in elevation. Seasonal habitat selection by woodland caribou is characterized by changes in elevation which is largely driven by access to available forage and the influence of snow conditions. There are six seasonal caribou habitat identified for the Selkirk population including early winter (October 17-January 18), late winter (January 19-April 19), spring (April 20 – July 7), calving (June 1 – July 7) and summer (July 8 – October 16).

Caribou Critical Habitat

Specific areas within the geographic area occupied by the species on which are found those physical and biological features that are essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection. The primary constituent elements (PCEs) for woodland caribou critical habitat include the following:

- mature to old-growth western hemlock/western red cedar climax forest and subalpine fir/Engelmann spruce climax forest at least 5,000 feet in elevation with moderately open to closed canopies (>26 percent);
- ridge tops and high-elevation basins that are generally 6,000 feet in elevation or higher, associated with mature to old stands of subalpine fir/Engelmann spruce climax forest, with relatively open (~50 percent) canopies;
- presence of arboreal hair lichens;
- high-elevation benches and shallow slopes. Secondary stream bottoms, riparian areas, seeps, and subalpine meadows with succulent forbs and grasses;
- corridors/transitions zones that connect the habitats described above.

Caribou Recovery Zone

A specific area designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which is managed for the recovery of the Southern Selkirk woodland caribou population per the 1994 Recovery Plan (USFWS 1994). The recovery area for the Selkirk Mountain population of caribou is comprised of approximately 1,477 square miles situated in northern Idaho, northeastern Washington and southern British Columbia.

Caribou Management Units (CMU)

Areas established for use in woodland caribou analysis. CMUs generally approximate the size of a caribou home range size (approximately 30 square miles) and include representations of all available habitat components.